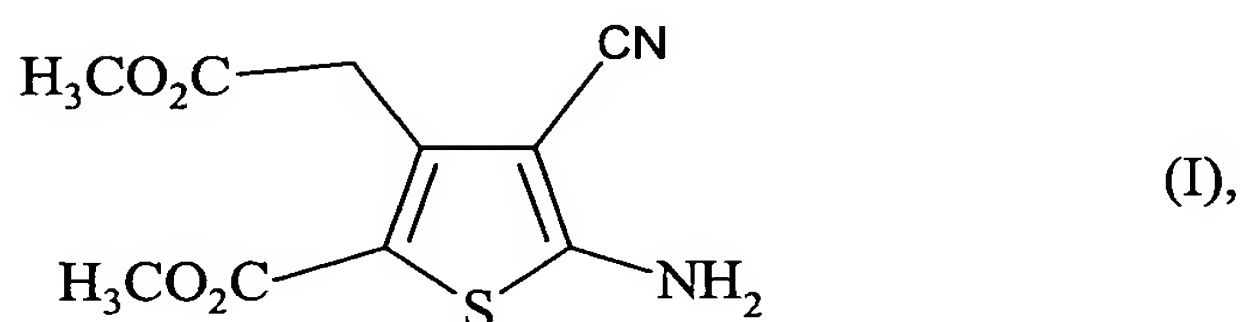
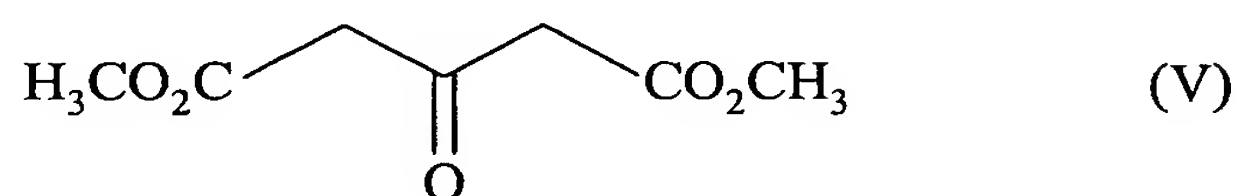


We claim :

1. A process for the industrial synthesis of the compound of formula (I) :



wherein dimethyl 3-oxoglutarate of formula (V) :



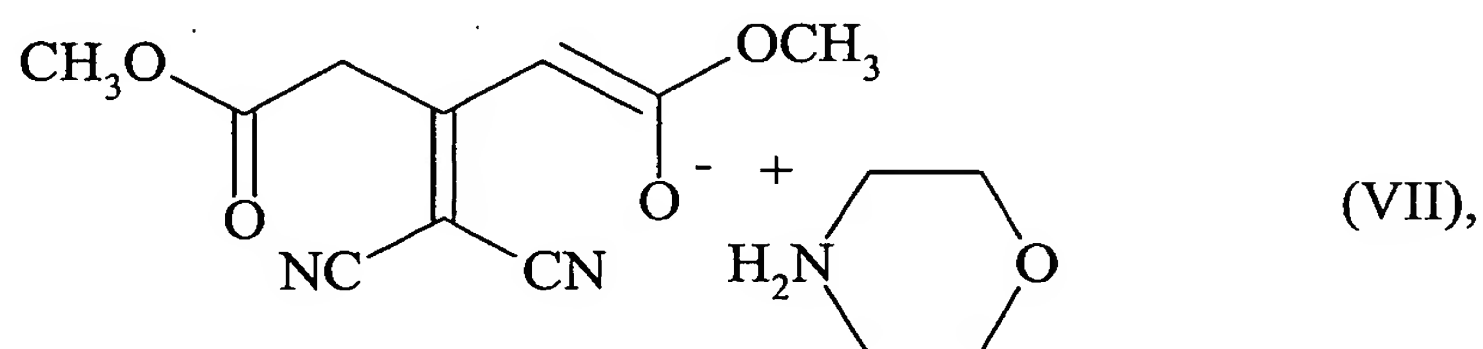
- 5 is reacted with malononitrile of formula (VI) :



in methanol,

in the presence of morpholine in an amount greater than 0.95 mol per mol of compound of formula (V),

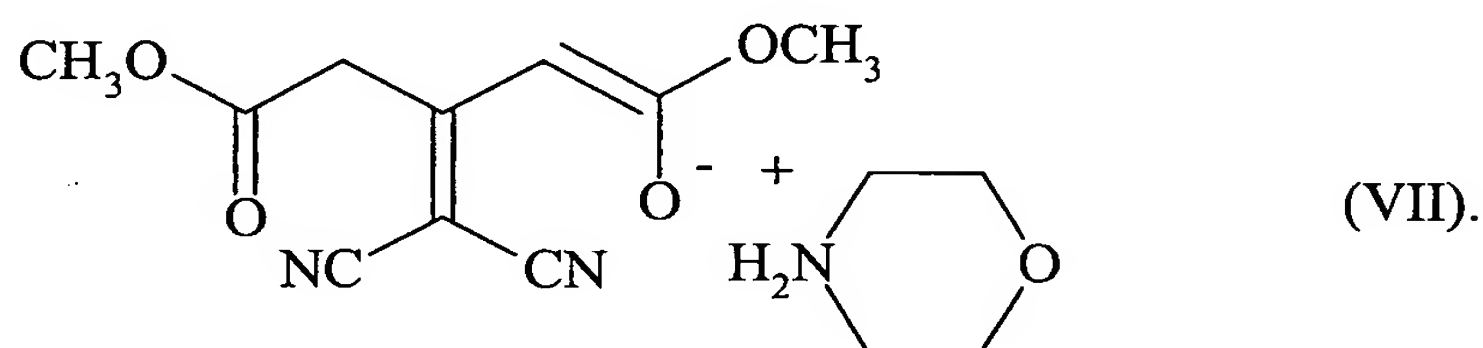
- 10 to yield the compound of formula (VII) :



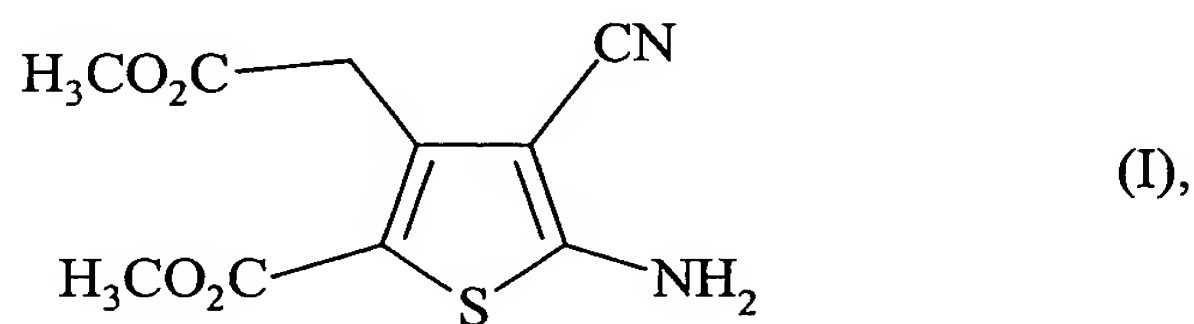
which is then reacted with sulphur in an amount greater than 0.95 mol per mol of compound of formula (V);

the reaction mixture is then heated at reflux;  
and the compound of formula (I) thereby obtained is isolated by precipitation in the presence of water, followed by filtration.

2. Synthesis process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of methanol is from 1 to 3 ml per gram of compound of formula (V).
3. Synthesis process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of reaction between the compounds of formulae (V) and (VI) is less than 50°C.
4. Synthesis process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction time at reflux after addition of the sulphur is from 1 hour 30 minutes to 3 hours.
5. Methyl 5-amino-4-cyano-3-(2-methoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-thiophenecarboxylate.
6. The compound of formula (VII) :



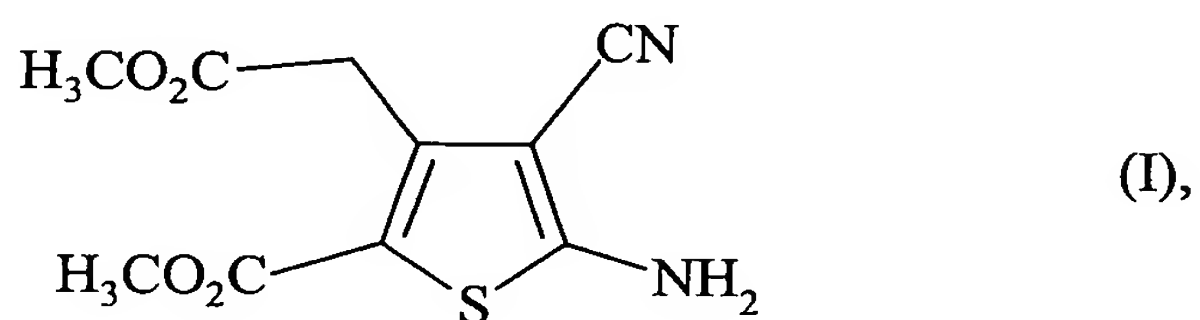
7. Process for the synthesis of ranelic acid, its strontium, calcium or magnesium salts and hydrates of the said salts, starting from a compound of formula (I) :



which is reacted with an ester of bromoacetic acid to yield the corresponding tetraester, which is converted into ranelic acid or a strontium, calcium or magnesium salt thereof,

wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained by a synthesis process according to claim 1.

8. Process for the synthesis of strontium ranelate and its hydrates, starting from a compound of formula (I) :



which is reacted with an ester of bromoacetic acid to yield the corresponding tetraester, which is converted into strontium ranelate,

wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained by a synthesis process according to claim 1.